

DOCKET NO: 1408.1003/DMP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of 35 U.S.C. §371 of:

Hiroshi KAKUTANI, et al.

Based Upon International Serial No.
PCT/JP00/08452

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Confirmation No.

U.S. Filing Date:

For: **CHARACTER-RECOGNITION PRE-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND
PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

*Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231*

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please enter the amended claim 5,
with the remaining claims 1-4 and 6-7 unchanged.

The following amendment and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 5 as follows:

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A character-recognition pre-processing apparatus according to any
one of claims 1 to 3 further comprising:

second judgment means which is operated when an image to be subjected to character
recognition contains a plurality of character strings in order to judge the orientation of the image on
the basis of information representing the orientations of the character strings judged by the
judgment means.

RECEIVED JUL 12 2001